

Under the Affordable Care Act (national health reform enabling legislation), states have critical responsibilities for implementation of new federal policies.

One critical area for planning will be the development of exchanges – virtual marketplaces -where thousands of currently uninsured Coloradans will seek information to select and purchase health insurance. Many of these individuals and families will be eligible for federal subsidies to help them pay their insurance premiums.

The 2011 general assembly and the next governor will need to make some key decisions about the structure, governance, and role of the exchange in Colorado. Decisions need to be made by June of 2011 in order to be ready for implementation in January, 2014, and to receive federal start-up funds for the exchange that will be made available in 2012 and 2013.

The Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved (CCMU), the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI), and the Health Reform Implementation Board are working together to host a series of community forums, facilitated by Gretchen Hammer from CCMU, to discuss the options for our state, as well as to seek and collect input from stakeholders and consumers. We will also provide fact sheets describing the requirements of a health insurance exchange.

We invite you to attend any/all of these forums scheduled for the following dates and times:

July 23, 2010	9 a.m. – 11: 00 a.m	National Jewish Hospital, Molly Blank Ctr
August 12, 2010	9 a.m. – 11: 00 a.m.	TBD
August 30, 2010	3 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	TBD
September 13, 2010	3 p.m. - 5: 00 p.m.	
September 29, 2010	9 a.m. - 11: 00 a.m.	
October	Meetings outside Denver metro area	

We plan to hold at least three meetings outside of the Denver Metro area; dates and times TBD.

We will put all of the information including locations, fact sheets, and summary information on the state's health reform website at [www.colorado.gov/healthreform](http://www.colorado.gov/healthreform)

All meetings are open to the public.